



March 31, 2003

Chief, Standardization Branch
Livestock and Seed Program
Agriculture Marketing Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Room 2603-S, Stop 0254
1400 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0254

Dear Chief:

On behalf of the nearly 2,000 members nationwide of the National Swine Registry and the Boards of Directors for the American Yorkshire Club, Hampshire Swine Registry, United Duroc Swine Registry and the American Landrace Association, I submit the following comments in support of Docket Number LS-02-02.

The National Swine Registry (NSR) is a partnership formed in 1994, and represents the four major breeds of swine in the United States. The four breed associations involved in the formation of the NSR are made up of purebred breeders from virtually every state in the country, and represent various sizes and scopes of operation. Three of the NSR partner organizations (American Yorkshire Club, Hampshire Swine Registry and United Duroc Swine Registry) were formed over 110 years ago in this country, while the American Landrace Association was organized over 50 years ago. These four breeds represent the foundation of the genetic base for commercial swine production in the U.S. and throughout the world. Each of these organizations is long-time members of the National Pedigreed Livestock Council, and it has been my privilege to recently serve as that organization's president for three years.

The superiority of various traits of each of our four breeds has been well documented throughout the years. As an example, the Duroc breed has been proven in National Pork Producer Council research and university trials to be superior in marbling and other pork quality attributes. As a result, a group of NSR members have developed a market for this high quality product and are marketing it under the name "Five Star Premium Pork". It is derived from purebred Duroc market hogs and all of the animals are traceable back to the NSR records through accurate and documented pedigree information.

The National Swine Registry supports the criteria listed in the "Breed Claims" section of LS-02-02. It is extremely important to our membership that any claims made utilizing the genetics of our four breeds be supported by documented ancestry. DNA information is now stored on all the sires used in all four of the NSR breeds, and the availability of this new technology will open many doors for future pork quality advancement in the commercial pork industry.

Genetics of Choice . . . For the Meat of Choice

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It is vitally important to the membership of each of our four breed associations and to the other members of the NPLC that a clear and traceable record of animals exists from generation to generation. Each of the organizations that make up the NPLC regulate their own membership with strict rules and guidelines, and it is most appropriate that those organizations determine the criteria established for livestock or meat marketing claims.

In reviewing the other proposed minimum requirements for livestock and meat industry production/marketing claims, we have no comment on the other sections. We support and encourage USDA to adopt the sections related to breed claims as stated.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Darrell D. Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Darrell" being more prominent.

Darrell D. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
National Swine Registry